

U.S. Department of Justice

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MAR 30 1988

Washington, D.C. 20530

Mr. Charles E. Allen
National Intelligence Officer for Warning
National Intelligence Council
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Allen:

As you requested in your March 11, 1988 memorandum regarding modernization of the NOIWON system, I have reviewed the 1983 draft proposal by the Intelligence Community's Information Handling Committee and offer the following observations.

The Department of Justice has been a member of the NOIWON system only since 1986. Therefore, the Department was not included in the discussions resulting in the 1983 draft proposal for NOIWON modernization. However, the Department agrees that the need to upgrade the system is long overdue and the basic functional requirements outlined in the 1983 proposal are sound as well as necessary for making the system more responsive to the operators.

Reliability and clarity are of course of paramount importance. All the other issues are of little importance if the system cannot be relied upon in time of need or if the participants in the conference cannot understand each other. Record capability would be the next most desirable feature. The ability to play-back the conference after it has been concluded would be advantageous in that facts can be verified and missing data can be recalled. Speed of activation and simplicity are important features that should be considered after those already cited. Naturally a system such as NOIWON needs to have the capability for being activated rapidly but simplicity of accessing the system must not be overlooked in an effort to improve the speed with which activation can be achieved. The system will be of little value if no one knows how to use it. Expandability is the key word in the modernization of the NOIWON system. The upgraded system must have the capability to be expanded if the need arises. The Department feels that the NOIWON system should remain a voice only system. The addition of such capabilities as facsimile, video, et cetera would be nice additions but would add to the complexity of using the system.

It should be noted that the Department currently accesses the NOIWON system via a KY-3 through the White House switchboard. In January of this year, the White House Communications Agency (WHCA) informed the Department that the White House switch supporting the Justice Command Center (JCC) was being dismantled and the Department would be assigned to a new switch located in

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Anacostia. This change required that the Department upgrade the communications link between the JCC and the Anacostia switch. Once the line was installed, WHCA would provide the JCC with upgraded voice equipment to replace the KY-3 currently in use. WHCA has assured us that the Department will be able to access NOIWON via this new equipment. The new communications link has been installed and the JCC is currently awaiting installation of the upgraded equipment.

I trust these observations will be useful in the discussions regarding upgrading the NOIWON system. If I can be of further assistance, please call me on 633-2094.

Sincerely,



D. Jerry Rubino, Director
Security and Emergency Planning Staff
Justice Management Division

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